

ABSTRACT

Hypnotic pharmaceutical compositions are made from pellets and exhibit a modified release. Zolpidem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is a typical hypnotic. The pellets are preferably spherical and exhibit a dissolution profile that includes 60% of the hypnotic agent being released from the pellet not earlier than 5 minutes from the start of a specified in vitro dissolution test. Although the modified release profile can include 50% of the hypnotic agent being released not earlier than 15 minutes after the start of the dissolution test, the pellet preferably does not contain a release rate controlling excipient or coating. Instead, microcrystalline cellulose and the active constitute the majority of the pellet, e.g. 90% or more. Spherical pellets are also made by a convenient method that is applicable to any pharmaceutically active agent.